

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Previously Presented) A method for treating depression in a subject comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of an inhibitor of an  $\alpha$  1B subunit of N-type calcium channel.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is an antibody specific for the  $\alpha$  1B subunit of N-type calcium channel.

5. (Withdrawn/Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is a transcription inhibitor of a gene encoding the  $\alpha$  1B subunit of N-type calcium channel.

6. (Withdrawn/Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is a translation inhibitor of a transcribed RNA of the  $\alpha$  1B subunit of N-type calcium channel gene.

7. (Withdrawn) An anti-depression agent containing a N-type calcium channel inhibitor as an effective ingredient.

8. (Withdrawn) The anti-depression agent as set forth in claim 7, wherein the anti-depression agent contains an N-type calcium channel  $\alpha$  1B inhibitor as an effective ingredient.

9. (Withdrawn) The anti-depression agent as set forth in claim 7, wherein the N-type calcium channel inhibitor is a compound acting specifically upon an N-type calcium channel to inhibit its activity, an antibody combining specifically with the N-type calcium channel, a substance inhibiting transcription of a gene encoding the N-type calcium channel, or a substance inhibiting translation of a transcribed N-type calcium channel gene.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Withdrawn) A screening method for an anti-depression agent, comprising:  
obtaining a transformant by transfecting host cells with a vector containing an alpha 1B  
structural gene and a reporter gene;  
culturing the transformant with a test sample for screening; and  
measuring the expression of the reporter gene, wherein decreased expression of the  
reporter gene indicates that expression of the alpha 1B structural gene is decreased  
and that the test sample is an anti-depression agent.